

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCS-03 SCA-01

OPR-02 SY-04 CU-05 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 021001Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9233

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12766

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT VS

SUBJECT: PACM MEETING IN NHA TRANG

REF : SAIGON 12658

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM CONGEN NHA TRANG:

"NHA TRANG 0600

1. FOLLOWING MASS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, FATHER TRAN HUU THANH, ASSISTED BY FOLLOWERS AND OPPOSITION DEPUTIES, ADDRESSED AN ASSEMBLY ESTIMATED AT 2,000 PLUS PEOPLE IN THE GROUNDS OF THE REDEMPTIONIST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NHA TRANG. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE ENTIRELY ON CHURCH GROUNDS AND WAS ORDERLY. THERE WAS NO "DEMONSTRATION" AS SUCH ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SPEECHES CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT FOR CORRUPTION AND SPECIFICALLY ACCUSING PRESIDENT THIEU AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE MADE. FOLLOWING THE MEETING THE ATTENDEES DISPERSED. THERE WAS NO POLICE INTERFERENCE AND FEW WERE IN EVIDENCE ALTHOUGH LOCAL SECURITY FORCES WERE ON FULL  
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ALERT.

2. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY SOME BUDDHISTS AS WELL AS CATHOLICS. THE VENERABLE THICH TRI TAM, HEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL BUDDHIST GROUP IN NHA TRANG, WAS PRESENT BUT DID NOT SPEAK. ALSO PRESENT WERE:

- A) FORMER SENATOR HOANG XUAN TUNG (AN QUANG BUDDHIST)
- B) MR. NGUYEN VAN TRAN, FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF OF KHANH HOA (1955-56)
- C) REPRESENTATIVE DUONG MINH KINH (BUDDHIST)
- D) REPRESENTATIVE TRAN VAN TUYEN
- E) REPRESENTATIVE DANG VAN TIEP (BUDDHIST)
- F) REPRESENTATIVE NGUYEN TUAN ANH (CATHOLIC)
- G) REPRESENTATIVE NGUYEN CUU (CATHOLIC)
- H) REPRESENTATIVE TRAN VAN THUNG (BUDDHIST)
- I) REPRESENTATIVE TRAN VAN SON (BUDDHIST)
- J) REPRESENTATIVE NGUYEN VAN CUU (BUDDHIST)

3. FATHER THANH, WHO WAS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SPEAKER, TALKED ABOUT CORRUPTION, REFERRED TO THE RECENT REMOVAL OF PROVINCE CHIEFS IN THIS CONTEXT AND ACCUSED MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY OF MAKING FORTUNES ON PUBLIC FUNDS. HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO "DETHRONE" THE PRESIDENT, HE JUST WANTED AN END TO CORRUPTION. HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE ORIGINS OF THE PACM AND SAID IT DIDN'T COME FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OR THE CIA, "IT CAME FROM OURSELVES."

4. AFTER FATHER THANH SPOKE, MR. NGUYEN VAN CUU, LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE FROM NHA TRANG SPOKE BRIEFLY AND THEN READ THE FIRST THREE POINTS OF A SIX-POINT CONDEMNATION OF PRESIDENT THIEU. THESE WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS MADE INITIALLY IN HUE.

5. MR. CUU WAS FOLLOWED BY SENATOR (DR.) NGUYEN TUAN ANH WHO READ THE LAST THREE CHARGES. REPRESENTATIVES TRAN VAN SON AND TRAN VAN THUNG THEN TOOK THE PLATFORM AND SPOKE AGAINST CORRUPTION. THEY REFERRED, INTER ALIA, TO INFORMATION MINISTER HOANG DUC NHA AND CALLED FOR HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS INTERFERING WITH THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

6. THE SUNDAY MEETING (ADDRESS) FOLLOWED PREPARATORY MEETINGS ON FRIDAY NIGHT (SEPT 27) AND SATURDAY AFTERNOON. THESE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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STRATEGY MEETINGS AND REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF "DEMONSTRATIONS". IT WAS DECIDED THAT OPEN DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE VIOLENCE SHOULD BE AVOIDED. THE SUNDAY MORNING MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER IN CAM RANH ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH SIMILAR PARTICIPATION AND THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER COVERED. THE CAM RANH MEETING, HOWEVER, ATTRACTED ONLY ABOUT 500 PEOPLE.

7. THE BISHOP OF NHA TRANG, FATHER THUAN, WAS NOT PRESENT FOR

THE ABOVE PROCEEDINGS. HE HAS GONE TO ROME. HOWEVER, HE HAD  
EARLIER ISSUED ORDERS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DEMONSTRATIONS IN  
NHA TRANG AND THIS MAY HAVE HELPED TO KEEP THE SUNDAY MEETING  
AS LOW KEY AS IT WAS.

8. LOCAL OFFICIALS IN NHA TRANG APPEAR TO BE DELIBERATELY PLAYING  
THE WHOLE MATTER DOWN. THEY ARE CAREFULLY AVOIDING THE WORD  
"DEMONSTRATION" AND DENY THAT ANYTHING WORTHY OF THAT NAME TOOK  
PLACE. THEY ALSO INDICATE THAT ONLY 400-500 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED  
IN NHA TRANG."

MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SAIGON12766  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SAIGON 12658  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PACM MEETING IN NHA TRANG  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, VS, (TRAN HUU THANH), (THIEU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005